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S E C R E T AMMAN 006435

SIPDIS

PLEASE PASS TO OPIC FOR S. LEMPRES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/10/2015

TAGS: [EINV](#) [KTFN](#) [ETTC](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: FURTHER COMMENTS ON APPLICATION FOR OPIC FINANCING
- MIDDLE EAST FROZEN FOODS

REF: A. AMMAN 6143

[B](#). STATE 136058

[C](#). (C) CIOC SPECIAL ANALYSIS PAPER - H. MAHMOUD
BUNNIA AND SONS GROUP (NOTAL)

Classified By: CDA DAVID HALE, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B & D)

[1](#). (SBU) Ref (A) provided information relating to the history and commercial stature and activities of the firm of [H](#). Mahmood J. Al-Bunnia & Sons Company regional office in Jordan, and noted that the Embassy has no derogatory financial information on this company. The information was provided in response to an OPIC request for Embassy Amman,s recommendation on proposed OPIC financing in support of an Iraq investment by the Middle East Frozen Foods (MEFF) company. It appears (ref B) that the majority partner in MEFF is prominent Jordanian resident Mustafa al-Bunnia, who is reportedly the dominant figure in the firm of H. Mahmood [J](#). al-Bunnia & Sons Company (Dubai). (Note: We believe verification of this point can only be obtained via examination of the registration certificate and "Authorized Persons" certificate which we believe is on file with the official registration office in Dubai. End Note).

[2](#). (S) Ref (C), received subsequent to transmission of ref (A), includes derogatory allegations concerning Khalil and Sa,ad al-Bunnia, who are prominent businessmen primarily active in Iraq, and are cousins of Mustafa al-Bunnia. These allegations include claims that Khalil and Sa,ad have links to fund-raising for insurgents. However, several major Iraqi business figures in Jordan, who are not affiliated with the al-Bunnias, tell us that Khalil and Mustafa al-Bunnia have poor personal relations and are not known to cooperate in their various business ventures. In addition, we note that to date we have received no/no substantive derogatory information concerning Mustafa al-Bunnia.

[3](#). (SBU) Despite the continued existence of a separate holding company called H. Mahmood J. al-Bunnia and Sons (founded in 1910 and based in Iraq), we understand that much of the original al-Bunnia conglomerate broke up some years ago and many of the al-Bunnias now operate independently, albeit under the shared rubric of "H. Mahmood J. al-Bunnia and Sons".

HALE